

aisle have of simply letting us go to a full debate and an up-or-down vote.

Look, if this law is poorly drafted and the majority of the Senate votes against it, so be it. But not even to allow us to go to that debate, to stop foreign corporations and foreign influence in our elections, to allow the BPs of the world to influence the way in which we have the gulf cleanup, or to allow the insurance industry to deny people based on preexisting conditions, or allow Wall Street to run wild—on and on—that is fundamentally wrong. That is what this debate is about, and that is what the vote will be all about.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I yield 7 minutes to the Senator from Rhode Island, Senator REED, who is speaking as in morning business. Senator FRANKEN spoke on the bill during morning business, and Senator REED was kind enough to give him time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, last Friday, this Chamber played host to heroes: seven wounded warriors from the 82nd Airborne Division, who are currently recuperating at Walter Reed Army Hospital. They came down for a tour of the Capitol, and for moments here on the floor of the Senate, in which they were able to see their government in action.

More important, we were able to thank them for their extraordinary service and sacrifice to the Nation. I am particularly proud because they are soldiers from my division—the 82nd Airborne Division.

We had among our guests SGT Steven Dandoy, who was wounded last month in a mortar attack in Afghanistan, of the third battalion 321st Field Artillery, whose hometown is Milwaukee, WI; SGT Allen Thomas, who is from Adelphi, MD, and serves with the 2-508 Parachute Infantry Regiment, who was wounded in Afghanistan this past March during an attack from a suicide bomber, and he was joined by his fiancée, Donna; SPC Antonio Brown, from Florence, SC.

We were honored to have SPC Antonio Brown from Florence, SC. He was wounded in Iraq in 2007 when a 50-caliber round detonated in his hand. He was serving with the 2nd Battalion of the 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

SPC John Doherty of Jerome, ID, was wounded when a 50-caliber round detonated in his hand in April while he was serving with the 2nd Battalion of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Amazingly, he recently passed his flight physical with the goal of qualifying as an Army helicopter pilot despite his wound.

SPC Jeffrey McKnight of the 1st Battalion of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment and hailing from Littleton, CO, was also our guest. He was wounded last month during a vehicle rollover in Afghanistan.

SPC William Ross also serves with the 2nd Battalion of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was our guest also. Specialist Ross hails from Knoxville, TN. He is recovering from a gunshot wound he received during a dismounted patrol in March. He was joined by his fiancée Tiffany.

SPC Nicholas Stone of the 2nd Battalion of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment was also our guest. He hails from Buffalo, NY. He is recovering from wounds suffered in an IED attack on a dismounted patrol in May. He was joined by his wife Kristen.

Let me also say it is appropriate to recognize the families of these wounded warriors because they, too, serve. They, too, sacrifice. In fact, during the long hours of rehabilitation and therapy at Walter Reed, they are at the bedside literally of their wounded soldiers. I thank them.

I also thank SFC Albert Comfort and SSG Rodolfo Nunez from the 82nd Airborne Division. They are the Division Liaisons for the wounded warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

These young men left the comfort and safety of their homes all across this country to serve this Nation. Their service, their sacrifice sustains us. They are the fabric of our defense. They are those young men and women who serve in great danger but with unfailing fidelity to the Army and to the Nation. Because of them, we are able to oppose those who seek us harm.

We can never repay them enough. We can never thank them enough. But last Friday we had seven of these wounded warriors down just to say: Thank you, well done, and to give them a chance to look at the Senate and see the history that was made by their predecessors, and which they are sustaining and will make in the future.

It was a special moment for me because these soldiers come from the 82nd Airborne Division. One of the great privileges of my life—in fact, I believe this is one of the greatest privileges an American can have—was leading American soldiers in the 82nd Airborne Division as the company commander of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. I learned a lot about service, sacrifice, and the contribution of Americans from across this globe, as well as the great potential of Americans, not only to defend our Nation but to do great things, furthering the goals and ideals of this country.

I conclude by saying to these young soldiers: Thank you very much for your service. Good luck. Godspeed.

I yield back the remainder of my time to the Senator from New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Rhode Island. He looks out, as our only West Point graduate in the Senate, for all our troops throughout the Nation. We salute him for it. I was proud he mentioned a brave trooper from Buffalo, NY.

Mr. President, may I inquire how much time is left on our side and how much time on the other side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 4 minute 45 seconds remaining on the side of the Senator from New York. On the Republican side, there is 6 minutes 52 seconds remaining.

Mr. SCHUMER. I wish to reserve 5 minutes for Senator BROWN, who wishes to speak. I believe he is on his way. I ask unanimous consent that the last 5 minutes be reserved for Senator BROWN, and I will speak on the remaining time—I know it is the other side's time—until one of them appears.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we heard a lot from the other side. I will be speaking in conclusion on this bill, along with Senator REID, after the lunch break. We have never heard such falsities. The other side, first, talks about free speech and talks about how corporations have the right to free speech. The Constitution now guarantees that after Citizens United—and our bill does not get in the way of free speech. It simply requires disclosure, which the Court said was important.

Second, they are talking about how it treats unions and corporations differently. The bottom line is, the unions are opposed to this bill and to simply say that a \$600 limit favors unions, no, we are just favoring big, huge givers who give tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of dollars over small, little givers. If there is a union person who gives \$10,000, they will be under this law. If there is a corporate person who gives \$500, they will not be. It is a misnomer.

I see my friend and colleague from Illinois has arrived. Since I will be speaking after the lunch, and I am just waiting for Senator BROWN to arrive, I yield the remaining time, other than the 5 minutes for Senator BROWN, to my friend and colleague from Illinois, Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from New York for his leadership on this legislation. We are here because the Supreme Court, across the street, decided, in a case called Citizens United, to change the way we campaign for office in America. They want to change it and say corporations and special interest groups can spend unlimited amounts of money on political campaigns.

Most of the people I talk with in Illinois and across the country think they have enough political advertising when it comes to campaigns. Hold on tight because, for example, the U.S. Chamber Commerce announced they may spend as much as \$75 million in this election cycle on more television advertising to promote candidates who agree with their positions on issues. That is about a five or six times increase in the amount of money they will spend.